

## Message Text

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56

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ACDA-07 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

/083 W

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O R 281405Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3885

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUMLO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 1108

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA

REF: A)USUN 3454, B) STATE 210927, C) LUSAKA 2122

1. SEAN MCBRIDE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR  
AUGUST 28. HE FIRST EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR  
DOLS 250,000 CONTRIBUTION TO NAMIBIA INSTITUTE ANNOUNCEMENT  
OF WHICH UNFORTUNATELY ONLY ARRIVED IN LUSAKA DAY  
FOLLOWING OFFICIAL CEREMONIES INAUGURATING CENTER. SECONDLY,  
HE NOTED PRESS ACCOUNTS THAT GOVERNOR SCRANTON HAD  
COMPLAINED TO SECRETARY GENERAL OVER HIS STATEMENTS  
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HERE IN LUSAKA. MCBRIDE ASKED WHETHER AMBASSADOR

COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT OFFENDING WORDS. HE STATED NOTHING HE HAD SAID IN LUSAKA EXCEEDED HIS MANDATE. SINCE HE WAS AN OFFICIAL ELECTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF NAMIBIA, HE WAS BY NATURE OF HIS POSITION NOT NEUTRAL, BUT RATHER POLITICAL. AS SUCH HE HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKING THE POSITION OF AN ADVOCATE, QUITE UNLIKE THE ROLE PLAYED BY "FACELESS BUREAUCRATS." IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE

MANDATE, HE HAD TO MAINTAIN CREDIBILITY WITH NAMIBIANS, ESPECIALLY SWAPO. TO DO SO, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO REFLECT THEIR POINT OF VIEW IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. THIS MEANT HE HAD TO CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICA IN STRONGEST TERMS. IN SO CONDEMNING SOUTH AFRICA, HE MADE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES' INVOLVEMENT IN NAMIBIA LOOK GOOD BY COMPARISON. AS FOR HIS SUGGESTION THAT UN OBSERVATION POSTS MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED ALONG BORDERS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND BLACK AFRICAN STATES, HE HAD ADVANCED THIS AS A POSSIBILITY IN RESPONSE TO HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION ASKED BY A REPORTER. HE HAD STRESSED TO REPORTER IT WAS STRICTLY PERSONAL SUGGESTION. HE CLAIMED THAT HIS SUGGESTION HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT AND OVERPLAYED BY THE REPORTER.

3. THE AMBASSADOR

ACKNOWLEDGED MCBRIDE'S REMARKS HERE HAD RAISED CONCERN IN WASHINGTON. OUR EFFORTS ARE DEVOTED TO FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROSC OF NAMIBIA. WHILE ONE MIGHT UNDERSTAND AFRICANS' DESIRE TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE AND WARFARE, WE DID NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE THIS OURSELVES NOR DO WE UNDERSTAND THAT IS THE ROLE OF THE UN. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT EVEN PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS, LIKE THE ONE ABOUT STATIONING UN OBSERVER FORCES BETWEEN AFRICAN ADVERSARIES, TEND TO PREJUDGE SECURITY COUNCIL REACTIONS TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

4. COMMENT: WE WERE LEFT AT END OF INTERVIEW WITH IMPRESSION THAT MCBRIDE REMAINED FULLY CONVINCED OF HIS MANDATE TO PLAY A ROLE IN ACTIVE SUPPORT OF SWAPO  
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AND THAT THE MORE VIGOROUSLY HE DID SO THE MORE HELPFUL IT WOULD BE TO THE U.S. AND BRITAIN BY MAKING THEM LOOK MODERATE TO SOUTH AFRICA IN COMPARISON WITH HIM.  
LOW

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
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**To:** STATE  
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